

PRESS RELEASE

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REVISED – PLEASE USE THIS VERSION!

LIGHTING UP SR 9 – ANOTHER FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

New Georgia DOT Traffic Signal to Improve Safety & Expedite Left Turns

Forsyth County, GA - New traffic signals designed to improve safety and increase traffic flow – especially for left-turn movements – are coming to the intersection of State Route 9 and Majors/Shiloh Roads and eventually throughout the state.

The new traffic lights are called Four-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) signals that will be deployed at intersections with historic heavy left-turning traffic volumes. The FYA signals will apply exclusively to drivers making left turns. The signal will be a vertical display of four left turn arrows functioning as follows (and displayed in the attachment):

- When solid **Red** arrow is illuminated, no left turn is allowed;
- When solid **Yellow** arrow is displayed, drivers should prepare to stop as light is about to turn red;
- When flashing **Yellow** arrow is illuminated, drivers may turn left but must yield to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles; and
- When solid **Green** arrow is displayed, drivers may turn left.

The new signals will be installed at State Route 9 and Majors/Shiloh Roads should become operational by 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. The first flashing yellow arrow was operational at State Route 9 and Castleberry Rd/Carolene Way on February 25.

Federal Highway Administration studies have shown these signals help reduce crashes of left-turning vehicles by as much as 35 percent. The FYA also offers clearer guidance to drivers turning left and allows them more movement through the intersection when no pedestrians or oncoming traffic are present, thereby reducing back-ups, engine idling and auto emissions.

“We believe this will help drivers wanting to make a left turn better understand when they can do so freely, when they may proceed with their turn cautiously, and when they may not turn left,” Bayne Smith, District Engineer said. “Our primary purpose is to reduce the often-devastating angle crashes that result when a left-turning vehicle is struck by oncoming traffic.”

FYA will now be Georgia DOT's preferred left turn traffic signal for eligible locations – those with high numbers of left-turn movements and resultant traffic back-ups and related accidents. In addition to the Georgia DOT locations, cities and counties throughout the state will identify eligible locations and apply to the Department for permits for the new traffic signals.

During heavy traffic volume the traffic signal may skip the flashing yellow phase to increase safety at the intersection. It is important that drivers not try to anticipate what the traffic signal is about to do; just “drive and obey the signal.”

If the traffic signal has a malfunction the left turn will flash red. As with all signalized intersections, a flashing red is treated as a stop condition and flashing yellow is treated as proceed with caution. If all indications at an intersection are flashing red or the intersection is dark it should be treated as a four-way stop.

The Quick Fix initiative delivers low-cost, high-yield projects that offer immediate benefit to communities and their citizens, such as adding turn lanes, widening roadways, intersection upgrades, etc.

Each day, hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees and contractors work on dozens of highway, bridge and intersection improvements throughout the state. Their work often brings them and heavy machinery in close proximity to travel lanes. Fifty-seven Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors' workers have been killed in highway work zone accidents since 1973. Please help us prevent these tragedies by slowing down; being especially attentive and cautious as you pass through construction work zones; and always driving responsibly. Safer Driving; Safer Work Zones; For Everyone. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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